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COSTAL RESTORATION STUDY

U.S. CORP OF ENGINEERS

and

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC MEETING

* * * * *

The public meeting for the **Coastal Restoration Study**, given in the above-entitled cause, before Wanda Capdeville, a Certified Court Reporter, authorized to administer oaths and take depositions, taken at the Morgan City Auditorium, 728 Myrtle Street, Morgan City, Louisiana, on Monday, February 10, 2003, commencing at 6:07 p.m.

Reported by:

Wanda Capdeville, CCR
Certified Court Reporter
In and for the State of Louisiana

1 APPEARANCES:

2
3 REPRESENTING THE NEW ORLEANS
4 DISTRICT CORP OF ENGINEERS
5 BY:

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7
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9 REPRESENTING THE LOUISIANA
10 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
11 BY:

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(None Offered)

* * * P R E S E N T S T I O N * * *

ROBIN DUNKIN:

Good evening. If we could get started. When the comments are concluded, then we're going to have an hour's worth of questions and answers and comments for you.

The first presentation we're going to hear from -- and I'll just introduce the panel real quick is Jon Porthouse. Jon is a Senior Project Manager with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

Next to Jon is Troy Constance. He's a Senior Project Manager with the Army Corp of Engineers. And all the way at the very end is Sue Hawes. She's a Project Manager with the Army Corp of Engineers. Jon and Sue will be presenting this evening.

The first thing I'd like to go over with you is a couple of ground rules. We have a really good representation here tonight. I'd like everyone who wants to speak to have an opportunity to speak.

So first and foremost the one thing I want to say is, can everyone hear me okay? Should I talk louder? You can't hear very well? Okay. All right. Good. If you should have a problem hearing, someone please just stand up, raise their hand and say, "I'm having a tough time hearing." We may just need to turn up the volume.

As you can see, we placed a mic in the middle of

1 the room for anyone to come up to the stand and make 5
2 questions and comments right here. We ought to be able
3 to hear you just fine.

4 When you stand we'd like for you to say your name,
5 and preferably if you think it's a difficult name to
6 spell, we'd like you -- to hear, we'd like you to spell
7 it. We have a court reporter here this evening who's
8 capturing all this information for us. And we also have
9 some members of the press here. So we'd like to get your
10 name and would like to be able to spell it correctly. So
11 if you can give us your name, your affiliation and where
12 you're from. We'd like to know what part of town you're
13 from.

14 We ask that you do one question at a time. Some of
15 you may have multiple questions. That's okay. But if
16 you could do one question at a time, that's what we would
17 prefer.

18 Jon and Sue are not going to leave here this evening
19 until all of your questions are answered. If you are the
20 type of person who doesn't prefer to stand up in front of
21 a microphone to ask your question, that's okay. Jon and
22 Sue will stay here and they will answer your question
23 once the meeting is over.

24 I ask that you please keep your comments to less
25 than one minute, so please don't be offended if I may
stop you in the middle of a five-minute presentation to

1 interrupt you, because I would like to get to as many 6
2 people as possible this evening.

3 Again, some of you may have seen a card that was
4 towards the front of the room asking you for your name,
5 your affiliation, your address, and whether or not you
6 wanted to make a comment.

7 Some of you may not know whether you want to make a
8 comment until after the presentation, and that's just
9 fine. If you want to fill out a card, we have some extra
10 cards right here towards the front of the room.

11 Otherwise, if you can just say your name
12 as clearly as possible, spell it, tell us your
13 affiliation and tell us where you're from, we ought to be
14 able to get enough information from that.

15 My job here tonight is to keep this thing going and
16 running on time. And I think we ought to be able to do
17 that. We have a really good crowd here tonight. So I'd
18 like to turn it over to Jon Porthouse. He's going to do
19 the first
20 presentation for you. And I think you're going to hear a
21 lot of interesting pieces of information tonight. So
22 thank you for coming.

23 **JON PORTHOUSE:**

24 My name is Jon Porthouse and I'm from the Department
25 of Natural Resources. What I'm trying -- well, what I'm
trying to do tonight is three things. So if we don't

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1 accomplish this in our talks, we would like you to come⁷
2 up to the microphone and call us out because there are
3 three things I'm trying to do tonight.

4 The first thing I'm trying to do is explain what the
5 heck this effort is meant to do. It's different from the
6 traditional Corp of Engineers Feasibility Study that you
7 guys are pretty well familiar with in this area.

8 So, what -- we're going to explain how it's
9 different, why it's better for you and how it's going to
10 get marsh projects on the ground faster, which is what
11 everybody wants to see.

12 Secondly, we're going to explain is how you can stay
13 informed and participate in the process, because believe
14 it or not, we can provide the best technical
15 documentation in the world, which is our intent from this
16 side of the table, but without your support and your
17 participation, it's just not going to work. So we do
18 need you to participate.

19 The last thing we'd like to do for you tonight, and
20 this is going to be Sue Hawes'
21 presentation, is give you an update on where we stand
22 with this effort and where we're going.

23 In many ways tonight's meeting is about an
24 orientation for the next round of public meetings in
25 several weeks. We need you to understand where we are in
the process and where we're going so you know how to get

1 information out and what we need you to do with it.

2 So I'll go into the presentation now
3 with this slide. Land loss is nothing new to you folks
4 down here; you live right on the front lines. Many of
5 things are natural forces such as storms and ***.

6 Some of the things we have done ourselves in the
7 coastal zone which, for the best of intentions, have
8 allowed us to live and work here, as I have often had
9 unintended consequences in altering a flow pattern of
10 water. The sediments and nutrients can't fertilize the
11 marshes and they can't keep up with the natural
12 processes.

13 So a little bit of a history, Coastal Restoration,
14 1965 was about the first real
15 big knowledge to the federal government that there was a
16 problem down here that needed fixing. That was the
17 original authorization with ***** Davis Pond.

18 For several reasons, the actual construction work
19 didn't start for another two decades or so largely until
20 the State decided to kick in money on the project and got
21 it moving. But that, again, that was the first big
22 knowledge to the federal government.

23 Since 1967 authorization just provides us the
24 permission to do this effort, and we're going to talk to
25 you about it tonight. The real big effort started around
1989, with ***** Act

1 *** allowing the state to have people and money to
2 participate in the restoration program. And it also
3 allowed a year later of 1990 the Breaux Act from the
4 federal government, where the federal government stepped
5 up to the table and provided the basis of what is now
6 most of our restoration program, the Quipper.

7 The Quipper produced a restoration plan in 1993, but
8 in 1998 we improved upon that, recognizing the
9 fundamental nature of the problems out there that -- you
10 know, the processes that interrupted, the natural
11 ***** processes that interrupted.

12 So what we're trying to do is get back to that basic
13 level; putting the river back, making sure the natural
14 processes are more at work.

15 Then from there in 2002, just under a year ago, we
16 had to start the effort we're here to talk to you about
17 tonight.

18 You'll notice the last word on that slide was
19 "study." And we don't want you to get hung up over the
20 word "study." What we're about here tonight is not doing
21 another study. We are largely aware of the problem, we
22 are largely aware of the solutions.

23 But unfortunately, when we're going to find a multi-
24 billion dollar program, it involves buy in from the
25 federal and state government, we need to document that.
We need to go through a reporting process to institute

1 this program.

2 So when you see the word "study" tonight, do not be
3 offended. That is merely a reporting effort that we have
4 to go through.

5 This slide shows the magnitude of the task at hand.
6 We have done a lot out there. Quipper has been
7 tremendously effective. We've learned a lot through
8 Kenard and Davis Pond, Barrier Shoreline Projects; all
9 these things.

10 But even our best efforts over the last 10 or 12
11 years, by this estimate, can fix about 28 percent of the
12 problem. So what we're here to talk about tonight is the
13 rest of it, the 72 percent. What can we do about the
14 rest of the problem, okay?

15 So the goal -- I told you it's not a study, it's a
16 report. What's this report supposed to do? It is
17 supposed to gain a commitment from any consensus on the
18 national and state level that there is a problem down
19 here that needs fixing.

20 Coast 20/50 Plan of 1998 was a landmark.
21 All 20 coastal parishes passed resolutions to support
22 that. A tremendous document, point; giving the concepts
23 and consensus. However, it did lack a few things. It
24 lacked a few engineering details and the program
25 elements, but it also did not go beyond coastal Louisiana
to a large extent. It did not pull in resolutions and

1 settle support from the rest of Louisiana's parishes, ¹¹ for
2 example. It did not pull in resolutions of support from
3 the other 49 states.

4 We have the Breaux Act Task Force down here, which
5 has allowed us to interact with the federal government.
6 They were all behind the 20/50 Plan. But by and large,
7 that didn't make it up for Washington.

8 So somebody's just -- I don't want to call them
9 inefficiencies, but somebody's blank cases are what we're
10 about with this feasibility effort right now.

11 So to gain this natural consensus, to gain this
12 natural statewide commitment, we're trying to prepare a
13 report for July of 2004. That's our deadline.

14 We're going to send a massive document to Congress
15 asking for a new large scale program to implement the
16 large scale strategies for the Coast 20/50 Plan.

17 It's a collaborative effort of agencies. You guys
18 are not unused to hearing that. Down here we have EPA,
19 the NRCS, Fisher & Wildlife Service, NOLA Fisheries, the
20 Corp, the state. They've all been working with Quipper.

21 We've expanded that a little bit more now. We've
22 pulled in, on a national level, the Departments of
23 Energy, Transportation, FIMA, US GIA. And we've
24 collaborated, not only on a state level, but at the
25 national level.

We're putting together groups at the Washington

1 level, at the regional level with
2 Dallas, Vicksburg, Atlanta, those kinds of offices,
3 because it's, again, about a national and regional
4 consensus.

5 So we're working all levels of government
6 simultaneously to get this thing on the ground faster.
7 And that's something that's been missing before, and we
8 hope that's going to be something that's going to work to
9 our advantage this time.

10 Programmatic authorization, I'll go into this a
11 little bit more later, but typically we get them -- we
12 get things authorized one project at a time. There are
13 dozens of strategies and concepts in the 20/50 Plan. One
14 project at a time is not going to cut it. We've got to
15 have something in place that allows us to pursue many
16 different activities at the same time to get projects on
17 the ground faster, not just one at a time.

18 Then we'll have something in there about the
19 implementation of the plan, basically the rules by which
20 the federal government and the state government operate
21 through -- more expeditiously together to get these on
22 the ground.

23 What's the report that I have? You've seen this
24 before, too. What's going to happen if we do nothing?
25 Many of you are familiar with the consequences of doing
nothing down here.

In this case, what -- we have to bring that case to a larger national audience so that the people in Idaho -- people around the country, not just the coastal Louisiana, got to know that there's a problem in coastal Louisiana. They have to know that it's in their best interest to fix the problem. They have to understand that it's a wise investment from a national perspective to fix things down here, as you all are currently aware.

It will have a recommended plan of sorts. Traditionally in a feasibility study we can get right down to how many yards of concrete we're going to need to put in the structure.

However, in this case, that's not going to happen. We are going to put some more details on the Coast 20/50 strategies because we have to be able to explain more what these concepts mean by the better process and know, what people are getting themselves in for with this program. But we're going to -- but it's not going to be drug down to "This project goes here and towards this much water." We're just not going to get there.

"The Plan Implementation Strategy," because everywhere we go this bullet of program management comes up as the first question.

If they gave you \$14,000,000,000 tomorrow, could you spend it? That's what this bullet is about. How are we going to be able to manage the tremendous amount of work

1 that \$14,000,000,000 signifies?

2 So we're looking at -- we're looking at lessons
3 learned from other large scale programs; the Everglades
4 *** Programs in California. We're trying to learn from
5 not only their mistakes, but their successes, how we can
6 organize ourselves best to get this work done the
7 fastest.

8 We're going to look at one of the federal and state
9 funding requirements, how much it's going to cost, how
10 much each of us is going to have to pay, science based
11 decision support systems.

12 It's incredibly important when you're attempting to
13 go to a national audience and make your case for many
14 billions of dollars to fix the coastal zone, it has to be
15 based on the best science, not only from now to the
16 initial report, but all the way through implementation.
17 You have to keep bringing the best science into the
18 program. And that's what that's all about; giving our
19 elected officials the best technical knowledge to make
20 their decisions.

21 And delegated authority; this is one of those big
22 keys that you all have to understand before you leave.
23 So if you don't get it this time, ask me later.
24 Traditionally, we send a report from
25 Mr. Constance's, the District Engineer in New Orleans,
 through Vicksburg to headquarters in Washington, through

1 the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, to¹⁵
2 the Congressional Committee, to Congress, where it is
3 ultimately authorized. We're trying to cut that thing a
4 little short.

5 Delegated authority simply means that if we have a
6 plan component that finishes up in detail design, all the
7 environmental work that goes on, and it's part of the
8 plan that we submit to Congress in 2004 is approved,
9 Congress, in certain instances, will feel comfortable
10 saying, "We don't need to see it as a whole. Our
11 Congressional Committee is going to approve this, so you
12 can get your money there without going through the last
13 level of the debate." In certain limited instances they
14 might actually delegate that down further to the
15 Assistant Secretary of the Army. So this delegated
16 authority is a huge time saver in getting these things on
17 the ground, these projects on the ground faster.

18 Problematic Environmental Impact Statement; that
19 goes along with the level with detail in our plan. If we
20 can't say we're going to do a 15,000 CSF diversion right
21 here, and this is what -- you know, what we're trying to
22 do, we can't really say for sure exactly what the impacts
23 are.

24 So a Problematic Environmental Impact Statement,
25 we'll be able to say, "A large diversion in these areas
will have these sorts of affects." And it will allow us

1 to say, "Yeah, we'll have these sorts of affects on 16
2 fisheries depending on the magnitude of the diversion."
3 Those kinds of issues.

4 So it's all about framing the discussion, framing
5 the issues, giving everybody enough detail so you
6 understand basically what you're getting into.

7 But then in 2004 when the program is approved we go
8 back and finish out all that documentation, finish out
9 all of the details about where the individual plans are
10 going to go and all the environmental compliance that
11 goes along with it.

12 See here, the potential solutions. Again, you all
13 are familiar with these. You've seen them, we've done
14 them, we've been successful. And in many cases, we've
15 made an effort to scale these solutions up.

16 First, put the river back in the estuaries. In many
17 cases, Terrebonne, Barataria, in areas like this, this is
18 the answer. They're -- you know, barrier shoreline
19 restoration; keeping the Gulf in the Gulf, protecting our
20 bays, our wetlands and our homes.

21 Barrier shoreline restoration, we have
22 -- we have done a pretty good job so far, but it's not --
23 it needs ramping up.

24 Salt water intrusion control; again, we don't want
25 salty water where our fresher areas are. It gets in --
it kills the fresher marshes, it gets in our drinking

1 water. We don't want that to happen.

2 That top line, the traditional process. As I said,
3 you do one thing at a time. You do your feasibility
4 study, you get authorized, you do your final design and
5 you build it, and you operate and maintain it.

6 In this case, again, literally, it could be dozens
7 of planning components. We can't do it one at a time.
8 We have to have a process that allows us to do final
9 detail design on several components at a time, get them
10 into construction and then start operating and learning
11 from them. Again, being the best science facts in the
12 project.

13 That red line on the bottom, LCA Comp, that's what
14 we're here to talk to you tonight about. July 2004 is
15 the transition between that red bar and that yellow bar.

16 I think it's yellow. That's where we get into the
17 details and design we're going to talk about.

18 So after tonight, I want you to know, July 2004,
19 this program study is done, and we -- if approved by
20 Congress, we move into detail and design.

21 Our program will have three different levels of
22 authorization, traditional one -- traditional feasibility
23 study, that's one level of authorization; Congress
24 debates and either says yes or no.

25 In this case we'll have three different ways for
Congress to look at it. The first group is that

1 traditional group. Everything's done; all the
2 engineering, all the environmental analysis. It's all
3 done. Congress can say, "All right, go for it, build it,
4 here's the money."

5 The second group, that's the delegated authority I
6 talked about. Congress will buy into it to the point
7 where, "Yeah, we think it's a good idea and we think
8 you've got a handle on the solution, but you need to do a
9 little bit more work before we'll turn loose the keys to
10 the vault." That's what that second one's about.

11 The third one, unfortunately there will projects
12 which are so incredibly complex that we have virtually no
13 documentation, so there will be some that we have to do a
14 traditional feasibility study on. We're trying to
15 identify those now.

16 The criteria which separates these three groups, we
17 have not identified yet. We do not know how the
18 recommended plan will be parceled out between those three
19 groups. It's something we're working on right now and
20 it's something we'll be able to tell you before we're
21 done with this whole reporting process, where we can fix.

22 Plan formulation. That's what Sue is here to
23 update you on. Where we stand on turning the 20/50
24 concepts into some semblance of reality?

25 All of these detailed studies, those are the things
we're going to have to complete before we actually build

1 a project. We are doing some of that detail -- some of¹⁹
2 those studies now. We are not going to get to the final
3 level of detail by 2004, but before we build one single
4 project together we may -- they will all have to have
5 these studies complete.

6 And public involvement, that's the last part. That
7 -- again, that's the critical part. We will provide the
8 best technical documentation and consultation with you
9 folks, but we need help to get this thing authorized.

10 So there's two questions: How can I stay informed,
11 how do I know what's going on and how can I participate?

12 The first one is pretty important. How do you stay
13 informed on what's going on? And the first and obvious
14 answer is, be on our mailing list. If you did not get a
15 study meeting announcement mailed directly to you in your
16 home you need to go to the back of the room. There's a
17 little 3 x 5 card that you can fill out. Put your name
18 and address on the e-mail list -- on the mailing list.
19 We'll mail all of our announcements straight to your
20 house. That's the first critical step.

21 Breaux Act News Flash. For those of you who have
22 access to the internet, if you go to the Quipper website,
23 we'll tell you about it later, if you don't have access
24 or don't know where it is. You can sign up for an e-mail
25 newsletter and you can become aware instantly on your
desktop on what we're doing on this study, but also

1 everything else that's going on in coastal restoration.²⁰

2 Not only Quipper, it will be a vfew other related
3 activities, but this is one of the primary methods that
4 we're using to get the word out to the -- to the public.

5 This one you guys got down pretty well. You're
6 here, you're attending a public meeting, so that's one of
7 the ways you can not only get the information reported on
8 the internet and everything, but you can actually ask us
9 questions that clarify things that you don't quite
10 understand. That's what we're here for, to provide
11 explanations.

12 LCA website: What we're shooting to do, all these
13 presentations we're giving tonight, we're shooting
14 against those on the internet before you come to the
15 meeting. We understand sometimes you come to a meeting
16 and people dump a lot of new information on you and you
17 can't digest it and you go home feeling cheated because
18 you didn't understand exactly what you heard and you
19 didn't really have a chance to ask the questions you
20 wanted to ask.

21 So if you're -- if you plan on coming to these
22 public meetings on a regular basis, please do go to the
23 internet in advance to these meetings, check out these
24 presentations. If you go there you will actually see not
25 just these slides, but the script to what we plan to say
to you up here in addition to what -- the work on the

1 slides. So you get a pretty good idea of what you're²¹
2 going to hear when you come to these meetings.

3 Request a presentation. We'll go anywhere and talk
4 to anybody. You just have to ask. It's a commitment
5 we've made and it's a commitment we intend to keep. We
6 understand that the best way to inform people is actually
7 to be there face to face and interacting, so if you have
8 any groups
9 such as Restore and Retreat, you want to have a meeting
10 and talk to us directly, we are happy to come and
11 interact with you on your own terms. It does not matter
12 to us. Anytime we can talk to you, we'll be there.

13 Now, if you want to go beyond -- for information to
14 just be aware of what's going on, you want to help us
15 actually get this thing authorized, there are several
16 different things you can do.

17 If you're just interested in making sure that the
18 report goes to Congress is as good as it can be, -- this
19 is the first one, you're already doing it,
20 congratulations. You're here, you're commenting. That's
21 one of the important things you can do.

22 Second thing, we have all sorts of ways to get
23 comments in. Our meeting announcement actually had a
24 postage-paid card that's also in the back. If you didn't
25 want to come tonight, couldn't make it, you could fill
that out and mail it straight to Troy and he'll get it on

1 his desk.

2 You can fill it out in the back of the room or you -
3 - we've got a comment card right on the internet. We've
4 got several comments already from those previous public
5 meetings straight from the internet. So it's getting e-
6 mail straight to Troy and myself.

7 You can write letters and e-mails to document
8 your concerns. We have a local representative from the
9 state legislature who has requested specific letters from
10 all his constituents on what they think about these
11 projects. We've been passing that along to everybody.

12 Write a letter to your representatives here and in
13 Washington. Write a letter to me. Write a letter to
14 Karen Gautreaux, who's not here. The governors Executive
15 Assistant for Coastal Activities. Write a letter to
16 anybody. It will get to the study. We intend to address
17 every comment, every question, every concern we get.

18 Encourage any group you may already be a part of to
19 get involved in the study. Sometimes you're part of a
20 religious or a civic group that doesn't participate in
21 these coastal restoration activities. You can encourage
22 them to get involved, you can encourage them to get up to
23 the meetings and interact with you.

24 The existing stateholder groups -- again, I'm going
25 to point to Lori because she's here, and I see her. I
think I saw Ted Beaulieu from ADA. You know, there are

1 lots of groups out there who participate in this program.

2 They're at all of our meetings. And if you want to
3 participate and make sure these people should know what
4 your concerns are, so bring them to us. They are not
5 shy.

6 Encourage federal interest. Again, this is not a
7 local program, it's not a local solution. It's a
8 national problem with a national solution. If you have
9 friends and family that do not live in the coastal zone
10 of Louisiana, it's up to you to make sure they're
11 informed and that they participate because we need their
12 help just as much.

13 When we're trying to get national approval, where
14 people perceive Louisiana's problem, it helps. The
15 Congressmen from other states are getting phone calls
16 from their constituents. And pay attention to this. You
17 need to help out with this problem.

18 So again, if you know anybody who doesn't live in
19 the coastal zone, their participation is just as
20 important as yours, and we'd like you to go ahead and get
21 them informed and get them involved through all these
22 other means.

23 We do intend to come out and talk to you again.
24 This is not just a one time deal. We will be here
25 probably in April next --
and again, all these things are going to apply.

1 One of the things we need to ask you though, did you get²⁴
2 notified? Did you get notified in the best way to get
3 you to this meeting? Is the best meeting location for
4 you? We're trying to make it as easy as possible for the
5 folks to be informed and participate. So if there's a --
6 if there's a way we can get to you, a special web page
7 you pay attention to, a radio show you listen to in the
8 morning, let us know. We'll try to hit that advertising
9 next time.

10 If this is not the best location for you, you think
11 we should go to Abbeyville or to Houma, let us know.
12 This was our first best shot to get the most people, to
13 spread them out across the coast. If we've got it wrong
14 we need to know so we can come get you in the right place
15 next time.

16 So that's about the end of my presentation, but
17 again, I just want to reiterate, we can do the best job
18 in the world up here. This is what they pay us to do.
19 We will do the best technical document we can possibly
20 get done, but we need your help to make it happen. So,
21 thank you.

22 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

23 The next presentation, as I mentioned before, is
24 from Sue Hawes, who's with the Army Corp of Engineers.

25 **SUE HAWES:**

I'm Sue Hawes for -- I'm Environmental Manager, and

1 I don't have any salivary glands, so I'm going to be
2 taking a pause and a gulp of water every once in awhile.

3 I'm going to sit there so I can run my slides -- so as
4 soon as I can totter over.

5 And so welcome again, and thanks for
6 coming to the meeting. I'm going to be
7 explaining the progress, where we are today, what we've
8 done. One of the first things we need to do is project
9 the future without the project; what's going to happen in
10 the future if we don't do anything except the existing
11 Breaux Act Projects. And if that becomes the future
12 without federal action, then the last land offspring we
13 had was 1983 to 1990, and we needed the more recent one.

14 So we updated it to 1990 to 2000.

15 During that period nearly 24 square miles a year
16 were lost. We've done it in a detailed enough way that
17 we could project where the loss might occur. And this
18 map shows the past loss and predicted loss in pink and
19 dark red, and the past and predicted gain in green.

20 And looking at it you can see a lot of the loss
21 occurred in Barataria-Terrebonne. And here, for
22 instance, is the mouth of Bayou Lafourche. And you can
23 see all of the loss that occurred. This is what's likely
24 to happen in the Atchafalaya Belt. And even with all
25 this growth, Subprovince 3 has the highest land loss in
the future along the coast.

1 So without -- just a moment. If we don't do
2 anything by 2050, our -- 500 square miles of our coast
3 will be gone. Or if you're within a plan, you need
4 Congress. What are we aiming for? We could reduce the
5 loss, cut it in half.

6 So, you know, I mean, then it's 250 square miles, we
7 could maintain it where there wouldn't be any loss. But
8 that doesn't mean that we just take a picture of it today
9 and keep that. You're going to lose some of that land.
10 In other areas the loss will be reduced and in other
11 areas there will be gain. So you end up with no net
12 loss. And then we could think really big and enhanced
13 target to regain 250 square miles a year.

14 Well, as Jon has said, this all goes back to Coast
15 2050. In Subprovince 3, the Retail Project Development
16 Team, page 18, Strategies. Well, then in Coast 2050 we
17 want the Keystone Strategies. These would be ones that
18 were too costly for it to grow at, and also ones that
19 fundamentally changed the ecosystem, or in simple
20 language, did the most for the coast.

21 And the ones we chose were moving the Atchafalaya
22 water east, which is the orange line and arrow, getting
23 some fresh water south into the tidal marshes through the
24 -- red arrows, maximizing the Atchafalaya Delta
25 Development, which is the chartreuse line, around the
bay, and the third delta, which is the big chartreuse

1 triangle.

2 And for those of you not familiar with it, that's
3 the Garsh Conveyance Channel east of Bayou Lafourche that
4 parallels to it, and it goes down in half the channel,
5 goes to delta in the Little Lake area. The other half
6 crosses Bayou Lafourche and builds a big delta in the ***
7 area just south of it.

8 It also shows restoring the barrier shoreline, the
9 islands ***

10 and also maintaining the shoreline in the bays,
11 Timberlear, Terrebonne, Vermilion Bay. So those are the
12 Keystone strategies that we chose. And so you can see
13 how we got from Coast 2050 to the LCA. We had 90
14 strategies in Coast 2050 across the coast. In the LCA we
15 have 35 keystones.

16 Well, now, we participated in 2050; no, that's --
17 they were just strategies, like move Atchafalaya water
18 eastward. Well, having to do that, what are you going to
19 do? We came up with hypothetical measures to do each
20 keystone, but these have details because we had to put
21 them into models, we had to come up with benefits and
22 costs.

23 So these hypothetical measures are very detailed,
24 and then the measures that combined into some
25 hypothetical approaches, different ways of looking at the
problem.

1 In Subprovince 3, we chose three very different ways
2 to solve the problem. We could just rely on the
3 Atchafalaya River resources where we do most of our work,
4 in the central part of the parish. Central part is the
5 southern province. We could look at using both the
6 Atchafalaya and Mississippi Rivers to build deltas or we
7 could look at restoring some of the geomorphic features;
8 bay shorelines, the barrier shoreline, line bridges, to
9 try to keep the salt water in the south.

10 Well, now let's look on -- just a minute. Let's look
11 at who benefits. Who benefits is southern Louisiana, but
12 also the rest of the country. So you people will
13 certainly pay a part of the 14,000,000,000. But then the
14 teacher in Monroe is going to have to pay, the grocer in
15 ***, my sister in southern Idaho, my sons in
16 Massachusetts and then the whole rest of the country.

17
18 Well, now, if we want the whole country to support us
19 and pay for that \$14,000,000,000, whether they pay all of
20 it, everybody pays a piece. We need to assure them that
21 we picked the best plan, that we've looked at a wide
22 range of alternatives.

23 And so that's what I'm going to be talking about
24 now, is how we're looking at the alternatives and how we
25 put them together.

 I've already explained that in Subprovince 3 we have

1 three approaches; using the Atchafalaya River, building²⁹
2 deltas or restoring the geomorphic land. Then we talked
3 about the ***

4 and reduce the loss and maintain with no net loss.

5 So we've come up with an alternative that would
6 reduce the loss using the Atchafalaya River approach and
7 one that would maintained using the same approach, and
8 that for each of the approaches. Well, again, I --
9 that's doesn't give too many details, so this is what
10 we've developed the measures for.

11 We came up with some of the measures that would
12 achieve this reduced target in the Atchafalaya approach,
13 and then some of that would come up with the maintaining
14 target. It would be bigger projects, the -- you know,
15 bigger measures or long measures, would be the same for
16 the delta and for the geomorphic. So this gives you six
17 -- six basic alternatives. And then we look at the
18 future without.

19 Well, now, what I'm going to talk about next is to
20 just give you an idea of the measures.

21 So we'll take the Atchafalaya approach, and I'll
22 show you slides of the range of measures from reduce to
23 maintaining, so you can see the sort of what things we're
24 looking at, and I'll do the same with the delta and the
25 same with the geomorphic approach.

So if we're trying to maximize the Atchafalaya River

1 resources, some of the measures that we'll use are --
2 first of all, we want to maximize the land building in
3 Atchafalaya Bay, the big orange square. To do that we
4 can modify the sediment distribution to the old river
5 control structure. And for ***** out there, we will fix
6 the spelling. It's OICS, not ORCI, because we've got
7 somebody who's come down the river to our meeting, and
8 then we also tried to get more sediment of the lake
9 outlay. Then we rebuild the historic reefs across the
10 mouth of the bay to hold the water and sediment in.

11 Then we also have to move the Atchafalaya water to
12 the east and south. And we have to protect some areas of
13 shoreline on the GIWW. We diverge some water from Bayou
14 Shafer and we reintroduce some -- the Bayou Lafourche
15 from the 10,000 cubic feet. In order to keep the
16 Atchafalaya water in we build a *****
17 And then we try to maintain some of the land
18 bridges between the lakes to keep the salt water from
19 moving north.

20 A land built by delta development, a lot of the
21 measures are the same. The Atchafalaya Delta would be
22 same. We move Atchafalaya water east and south just by
23 getting to some small openings and channels off the
24 Atchafalaya. We've had ***
25 and then we concentrate on building the big delta, the
big third delta with a channel parallel to Bayou

1 Lafourche.

2 And then to maximize geomorphic features, we look at
3 protecting shorelines, and -- along Buras southwest pass.

4 On some of the shores in East Coast ***** Bay, the shore
5 line of *** Island; putting the barrier shoreline
6 islands back to the 1890 condition, adding the Houma
7 Navigation Canal Locks. Adding an interior barrier along
8 the bays in eastern Terrebonne, and finally maintaining a
9 lot of the land bridges.

10 So these would be the three approaches that we'd
11 look at in Subprovince 3. And so it gives you an idea of
12 the measures, how the measures would all be different,
13 because we do want a wide range of alternatives to look
14 at.

15 Now, moving out west to Subprovince 4, this is
16 Chenier Plain, they had 22 Coast 2050 strategies, and
17 we've -- this time we chose about 7 of them to be
18 Keystone.

19 The major ones were to control salinity at the mouth
20 of the Calcasieu and the Sabine, the big red dots. We
21 also looked at getting fresh water, lowering the water
22 levels up in the lake's basin Hermin, and getting it out
23 into the more coastal area, which is the red arrows. And
24 then we looked at a fair amount of marsh location
25 with fresh material of beneficial use. And finally the
white line is showing gulf shoreline.

1 And then here we have three different approaches.
2 Again, this Calcasieu-Sabine Basin, the big problem is
3 keeping salinity out. There's two big navigational
4 canals that shoot salty water into the heart of the --
5 this subprovince. So you can control those by building
6 locks or gates at the mouth of the Sabine and the
7 Calcasieu.

8 You could also use a different approach, and that's
9 what we've got partially constructed. You can control
10 the salinity all around the perimeter at all the -- and
11 we've -- a lot of the areas have structures already.
12 Cameron Creole has structures. We've modernized those.

13 We've given more control. We've put structures in all
14 the little bayous that go into the area between the
15 Calcasieu Lake and Sabine Lake. Or we could concentrate
16 on just getting fresh water into these basins from any
17 way we could.

18 So now we're looking at the three approaches with a
19 whole range of measures, with the large structural
20 salinity control, we'd have the loss of gates at the
21 mouth of the navigation channels, we'd have some fresh
22 water introduction into the *** basin, and we'd have
23 marsh creation on the
24 Sabine National Wildlife Refuge.

25 Then the perimeter salinity control, you'd have all
 those crosses to control salinity, all the little bayous

1 that aren't controlled now, are to operate the Cameron
2 Creole structures. And we'd have some more marsh
3 creation. And then we'll look at the fresh water
4 introduction over in Mermin *** Basin. And finally we
5 protect the barrier shoreline from -- we look at -- we --
6 you know, we restoring it from where the mud stream ends
7 that are just south of White Lake, over to the Calcasieu
8 River. And then in the fresh water introduction, we'd go
9 to -- there's a lot of fresh water introduction into the
10 Mermin *** some marsh creation. We start at the barrier
11 shoreline. And then a small structure ***
12 *** probably over here --- Causeway over on -- off the
13 Calcasieu River.

14 And so this is basically where we're at. We've got
15 some approaches and we've got Providence 3, those
16 approaches. And we've
17 passed those out. There's a bunch of measures. So we
18 have -- in this basin we'll have nine alternatives.
19 What's the future without -- in Subprovince 4 we'll have
20 six, because the problem in Subprovince 3 is, all the
21 measures, all the measures we have just achieved the
22 maintain approach. They -- we don't have enough measures
23 to enhance. And so do you have any questions or
24 comments?

25 **JON PORTHOUSE:**

Before we turn the floor back over to Robin, I just

1 wanted to say, to finish off the orientation course in³⁴
2 case you're ready for a next well, the next time we come
3 out here in April.

4 Broad brush approach of what we're trying to
5 accomplish. It does not have all the details. There are
6 no -- we are still in the process of flashing out exactly
7 what these concepts mean, exactly what this little red
8 square means and this little white squiggly line. We're
9 still flashing that out right now. At the same time
10 we're also flashing out our evaluations of when we decide
11 how effective these plans are.

12 So next time we come out here to you we'll be able
13 to tell you more concretely what these little sweeping
14 lines mean and what it's going to do for particular
15 resources of interest, like fisheries, like flood
16 protection, those kinds of things.

17 So the next time we come out, this broad brush
18 approach, the outlines you see here tonight, we'll have a
19 lot more details for you to consider, a lot more meat on
20 the bones. So to finish off your ideas, you can expect
21 more meat next time. This is the concepts. These are
22 the things we need you to understand now about the
23 different ways we're looking to restore the coast. We'll
24 bring more information back out next time.

25 **ROBIN ROBINSON:**

Okay. We're going to start the question and answer

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portion of the meeting now. I already have some cards³⁵
and so we can start with those. Even if you haven't
filled out a card, you still have an opportunity to make
a comment or ask a question.

Remember just one housekeeping rule. If anyone has their cell phone, can you turn it off, or a pager, turn it on vibrate. That way we won't get interrupted by any cell phone calls.

Again, we need your name, your affiliation and where you're from. We would also like to ask that you please limit it to one question at a time, and we also ask that you keep your comment to a minute.

So let's begin. The first person I have -- I don't have these in any particular order. Randy -- I'm probably going to murder this name. Moertle?

RANDY MOERTLE:

My name is Randy Moertle. I'm with Randy Moertle & Associates. I'm an environmental consultant, and I have landowner clients from Brenton South all the way to Cameron Parish.

I'm here to make some comments, some constructive ones. Again, I've been to two of these meetings now. I think one of the things we need to let everybody understand is what the state match is going to be.

We're talking about \$14,000,000,000. The state

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1 match is going to \$4.25 billion. And what we need to ³⁶ do
2 probably at these meetings is make the public aware of
3 that, because I know we've hired -- governors got
4 permission, and what they've done is they've assigned men
5 to come up with innovative funding sources.

6 And so what you might want to do is bring this out
7 to the public, because there may be some good ideas out
8 here on how we can go ahead and generate some money,
9 because that is going to be the show stopper.

10 You know, if we don't have the funding, then it
11 ain't going to happen. That's one of the things. And
12 I'll give you one example that I thought of, is you might
13 want to do some kind of a user fee for people to use the
14 Intracoastal waterway.

15 A lot of my clients, that is their biggest land loss
16 there, is along the Intracoastal Canal, because of the
17 wave wash and erosion along the Intracoastal Canal. And
18 we have no kind of protection there or along fresh water
19 bayou canal. So we might want to think about developing
20 some kind of user fee for that.

21 The other thing I would suggest is that we go ahead,
22 and if we're asking the whole country to pay for this
23 thing, we'd better start convincing people in this state
24 what we're up against and start putting things out, not
25 just through cards and sending people to public meetings
when we have 50 people here. What we need to do is have

1 it on radio, and -- or either have it on television. 37

2 I know the governor put together a videotape, and
3 he's got all kinds of things. We need to find ways. If
4 maybe some of the stations can donate some time to put
5 some stuff out there. You know, we need to start making
6 the nation aware of this, because that's going to be the
7 other big show stopper. Thank you very much.

8 **JON PORTHOUSE:**

9 Let me just address a couple of those comments.

10 What you refer to as, right now, the current federal
11 legislation, the state is on the hook, or so to speak,
12 with 35 percent of the cost. One of the things the
13 state's doing sort of outside of this feasibility realm
14 on our own is to develop some information that might
15 allow us to make a case that 35 percent isn't really an
16 equitable share for Louisiana.

17 So we're actually looking for ways to make an
18 argument that maybe it should be 25 percent, maybe even
19 15 percent. We don't really know what the fair share
20 will be, but we are looking at that. So hopefully we'll
21 be able to make a strong enough case that 35 percent is a
22 little steep. We can't guarantee that right now. That's
23 something we're trying to work on.

24 You're absolutely right about funding sources. The
25 state right now has to work on that. You mentioned the
Governor's Commission is going to be involved. We do

1 have -- and I think we have meetings. I was driving to³⁸
2 Morgan City this evening, where the highest levels of
3 state government were getting together trying to identify
4 what we could do from the state side for funding on out
5 match.

6 The Federal Government has to do sort of the same
7 thing. I'm not going to speak for them on that, but the
8 Federal Government does have to identify funding sources
9 for them, as well.

10 You're going to pass on that, but to address your
11 other comment about these -- understand this is the bare
12 minimum of what we have to do to get the word out. We
13 understand that. We are now in the process of
14 documenting the final outreach plan, or the participation
15 plan to get everybody on board with this.

16 We do have something called the America's Wetland
17 Campaign. And if you haven't heard of it, we have a few
18 brochures back there. But the goal of that is to develop
19 the national and statewide awareness. So that's going on
20 right now through these public meetings. They're really
21 rewarding. We've asked for your help, and people have
22 stood up and said, "Hey, I can get you on public TV." We
23 have a lunch tomorrow to discuss how to get on public TV
24 around the state and around the country.

25 So issues like that, we'll take any sort of air time
we can get, and if anybody out there has any radio shows,

1 we're willing to come on, so please let us know. Thank³⁹
2 you.

3 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

4 Thank you Randy. Thank you, Jon. Next person up,
5 Lori LeBlanc from Restore or Retreat.

6 **LORI LEBLANC:**

7 First of all, I want to make a comment.
8 Y'all -- compliment you all on your public outreach and
9 public relations and the user friendly approach this
10 time. You've done an excellent job relative to the past
11 meetings, and compliment you on working with the local
12 communities such as Senator Gautreaux. And I know Bitnet
13 was involved in another meeting, but working with the
14 local communities.

15 Now, we've heard so many complaints about not having
16 people here, not having public -- enough public
17 awareness. Well, that's what we are here for. And
18 everybody sitting in this room, I truly believe that we
19 can't just leave it up to you all, that you have to use
20 the resources that are out there, and you've an excellent
21 job in doing that, so I commend you on that.

22 I have a couple of issues and concerns. Number 1,
23 we keep talking about future without projects. And
24 people tend to think of the future as being 2050, as
25 being 48 years from now. Well, believe it or not, the
future is here and it's now. And we are really racing

1 against the clock. And I know all of you know that. ⁴⁰ And
2 we're happy that we're pushing for word in 2004, and
3 we've set our goal for word in 2004.

4 But nonetheless, it concerns me that contracts are
5 not getting signed that need to be signed to start
6 getting projects implemented.

7 More specifically, I've been -- there's been a lot
8 of talk out there right now about the Bayou Lafourche
9 Reintroduction Project. It's my understanding that
10 there's been delays in contracts with that. And that's
11 just one example, that a project like that, we don't have
12 another several years. We don't have 25 years like it
13 took for Davis Pond.

14 You know, we can help you with getting the word out.
15 There's a lot of -- you know, we can help you in
16 reaching the standard or where to go forward but what can
17 we do to make sure that the contracts are signed and
18 things -- you know, I guess the red tape in all of this,
19 we can cut through it and make sure that projects are
20 implemented. So that's my first question.

21 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

22 Well, the project you refer to is not within the
23 LCA, but that's a Quipper project and -- I believe you
24 refer to. And it's unfortunate consequences, that when
25 you are dealing with tax payer dollars, you need to make
sure that all the i's are dotted and t's are crossed.

1 But coming back to the point of what can you do in⁴¹
2 the LCA, and Jon pointed out very well, is that this
3 whole effort is done in the process, delegating some of
4 that authority down so that you can move rather quickly,
5 and Jon stopped the delegation and say -- really what we
6 would like to see is that delegation coming from further
7 down.

8 That's where you can, as the public, assist us
9 significantly, in supporting the plan, explaining to your
10 elected officials that this is a crisis and the time is
11 now, and that a new process needs to be supported, and
12 that allows us to move much quicker than what we had in
13 the past.

14 **LORI LEBLANC:**

15 Okay. And I use Bayou Lafourche Project as one
16 example. I understand it's not part of LCA, but
17 obviously there will be a lot of projects along the way
18 that will require contracts.

19 Number Two, --

20 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

21 Do you mind if we come back to that question, Lori?
22 I'd like to get to some other --

23 **LORI LEBLANC:**

24 Sure. Okay.

25 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

But I'm certain we'll have time.

1 **LORI LEBLANC:**

2 I do have another question.

3 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

4 Thank you, Lori. Our next person, Barry Guidry, who
5 is a local business owner. Is your district here?

6 **BARRY GUIDRY:**

7 How you doing? Actually, I just moved back to
8 Louisiana. I grew up out of Lafayette and spent some
9 time in the military.

10 My question to you is, I'm associated with some
11 other workers and friends that will come up with some
12 pretty good ideas on what you're trying to achieve.

13 My question to you would be, who would be a point of
14 contact for us to meet to propose some of these ideas
15 that we have?

16 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

17 Us; one of us.

18 **BARRY GUIDRY:**

19 Great. Let's talk after the meeting. Thank you.

20 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

21 Okay.

22 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

23 Okay. Thank you very much. Our next --

24 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

25 By the way, thank you for your services.

BARRY GUIDRY:

1 Oh, I may be leaving again soon.

2 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

3 Our next person, Ted Beaulieu, Acadiana
4 Association.

5 **TED BEAULLIEU:**

6 I'm Ted Beaulieu, B-e-a-u-l-l-i-e-u,
7 and I'd like to go on public record that we certainly
8 agree with what Sue Haus has presented in regards to
9 Subprovince 3, was it, the Atchafalaya Bay.

10 And I have an old map here which depicts what is
11 going to happen if you build that reef. Naturally you're
12 going to be building up a lot of delta between -- is
13 there supposed to be a reef extending from Point O'f***
14 towards Marsh Island or towards Point Chenier?

15 Sue, is that it?

16 **SUE HAWES:**

17 That's what it is. Yeah. We'd look at restoring
18 Point Cerille toward Marsh Island reef, and then also the
19 reef -- a reef from Point Afferidi to Eugene Island, and
20 Eugene Island on over toward the other reefs, so we have
21 reefs across the mouth of the bay, and then the diagonal
22 reef from Point *** toward Marsh Island.

23 **TED BEAULLIEU:**

24 I certainly want to commend you on the outlook of
25 the plans that you presented tonight. We're certainly in
total agreement with that plan. And we also want to

1 commend the State of Louisiana and this whole group for⁴⁴
2 the amount of time that's been spent on going into this
3 study that's going to be taking place for the saving of
4 our coast.

5 And I guess in closing, it's so very important to us
6 that this Acadiana Reef --

7 I don't want to talk too long -- this Acadiana Reef
8 because after Hurricane Lilly, that if these reefs were
9 not to be dredged out by the state, allow people to
10 dredge these reefs, the surge at Bunche Point was 10 to
11 12 feet.

12 However, Sycamore Point, which it -- west coast
13 Blanche and Vermilion, the surge was there. It was five
14 to six feet, Marsh Island doing -- taking the brunt of
15 the surge that took place. So this is vitally important
16 to this whole area. And so far there's three, as I
17 understand it, are in Acadiana Bay as we present it,
18 which is Atchafalaya Bay, east and west coast Blanche Bay
19 and Vermilion Bay.

20 I have one other item that I'd like to bring up.
21 Could you bring that Subprovince 3 back up, please, or is
22 that asking too much?

23 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

24 And, Ted, we'd also like a copy of your map. Is
25 that an extra copy?

TED BEAULLIEU:

1 I have a bunch here. I'll be more than happy to
2 give you one.

3 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

4 Okay. Sue would like to have a copy.

5 **TED BEAULLIEU:**

6 I've drawn on it. My understanding, this is the old
7 Map Point Cheralle reefs that extended out
8 12 miles at one time.

9 **SUE HAWES:**

10 Ted, which one did you want? Any one of them?

11 **TED BEAULLIEU:**

12 Subprovidence 3 which shows your depiction of what
13 was taking place?

14 **SUE HAWES:**

15 This one?

16 **TED BEAULLIEU:**

17 Yes.

18 **TED BEAULLIEU:**

19 This does a great job for us in protecting this area
20 down here as I just got through saying in regard to the
21 surge that we had. To the left you see Marsh Island at
22 which helped us out at some point which cut down the
23 surge from 10 to 12 feet and 5 to 6 feet.

24 But there's only problem that we do have with this.

25 And I think some other people in this audience, I know
Mr. Naquin here with St. Mary Parish, is what's going to

1 happen at the jaws. We have a problem with the jaws
2 where we're going to be filling in the bays. We don't
3 mind filling in Atchafalaya Bay. As far as we're
4 concerned, Atchafalaya Bay is gone.

5 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

6 Ted, pardon me, I'm just going to point out the jaws
7 for you.

8 **TED BEAULLIEU:**

9 Please. And there's a project now that's on the
10 boards with DNR, whatever committee that is or whatever
11 agency is a head of it, but I know St. Mary Parish is
12 involved in that. Therefore, it also involves our bays
13 as far as we're concerned, because the amount of sediment
14 that's being poured into that bay is filling up our bays
15 at the jaws.

16 And I know this presents a problem with St. Mary
17 Parish. And I'm not trying to steal your thunder. I'm
18 sure you're going to go ahead and get up and tell me what
19 you have to say. Right?

20 **MR. NAQUIN:**

21 Not really.

22 **TED BEAULLIEU:**

23 But you're having a problem, and trying to solve
24 that problem by doing some terracing to the south of the
25 jaw. And in doing so, they want to dredge that channel
from the jaws out into the West LeBlanche Bay towards

1 Point Barone, and in doing so that's going to do nothing
2 but allow more substation to pour into east and west
3 LeBlanche Bay and eventually into Vermilion Bays.

4 So we'd like to make sure that before they proceed
5 with any projects, we would like to be involved in
6 determining whether or not we want to work closely with
7 St. Mary Parish and the corp and whoever else is
8 involved to make sure that everybody's problems are
9 addressed. I thank you. I won't take up any more of
10 your times.

11 **ROBINSON;**

12 Those are great comments. Would you all like to
13 respond to any more of his comments?

14 **JON PORTHOUSE:**

15 Well, we already have all the information he's
16 talking about, but we do appreciate the offer to work
17 with us. I know we worked very closely in the past on
18 this project in particular. We look forward to
19 continuing that relationship to make sure this happens in
20 the best possible way.

21 **ROBINSON:**

22 Thank you, Jon. Our next individual,
23 Allan Ensminger with Wetlands and Wildlife Management
24 Company.

25 **ALLAN ENSMINGER:**

My name is Allan Ensminger,

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1 E-n-s-m-i-n-g-e-r. I live in DeRidder, Louisiana over in ⁴⁸
2 the left part of the state. But one of the clients that
3 I manage property for is Pointifer Properties. That's
4 the one that is shown in the center of this map here with
5 the red fronting shoreline on the front side of the
6 islands; 44,000-acre tract of land, belongs to some
7 absentee owners and the New Orleans Archdiocese of the
8 Roman Catholic Church.

9 The island has suffered extensive shoreline erosion
10 over those 100 years that these people have owned it, at
11 -- probably at the rate of about 60 to 70 feet of
12 shoreline loss annually.

13 Two major Quipper projects were implemented there on
14 the island. One of them involved a long section of
15 shoreline protection to keep from breaching over into the
16 Pointifer oil and gas field and to prevent salt water
17 from coming in through the heart of the island.

18 The other one was a dredge and fill project known as
19 the Lake *** Hydrological Restoration Project. It
20 involved taking film material out of the Atchafalaya and
21 filling in that broken marsh area. It had a spectacular
22 success story on that one.

23 Those type of projects are extremely, extremely
24 important. As Ted just pointed out, Pointifer Island
25 took the brunt of Hurricane Lilly in this area. We had
about 8 feet of water over the island. It destroyed all

1 of our trapping camps, did a tremendous amount of damage⁴⁹
2 to the oil and gas facilities on the island. But it
3 dampened the impact into those marshes on the north side
4 of *** Bay.

5 So certainly the re-establishment and maintenance of
6 those large barrier islands such as Marsh Island,
7 Pointifer and barrier islands down to the east, are going
8 to be a critical part of the FCA.

9 I know -- I serve on Board of Directors of Louisiana
10 Landowners Association. Our association represents some
11 two and a half
12 to three million acres of landowners. Many of them are
13 wetland owners. Quite a few of them are here in
14 attendance tonight. All of us are very, very concerned
15 that landowners be involved in these planning stages from
16 get go, allow us to have some input through our land
17 managers and our technical people, who we've all had
18 access to. So certainly come to us. If we don't show up
19 at the meetings, send us another note. We'll get someone
20 there. Thank you.

21 **ROBINSON:**

22 Thank you, Mr. Ensminger. Jon, Troy, would y'all
23 like to comment?

24 **JON PORTHOUSE:**

25 I think we've said just about all there is to say.
We all know from past experience that not dealing with

landowners up front has been a historic Program.

It's one of those things we've got to fix so we look forward to working with you on that. I don't know if you want to talk to Mr. -- Judge Edwards up here afterwards, or from the Governor's Commission, on these sorts of issues and get together and work on how we work --

ALLAN ENSMINGER:

We're the ones that assigned Judge.

JON PORTHOUSE:

Well, you know more than I do, so that's fine.

ROBIN DUNKIN:

Okay. Next person up, Senator Butch Gautreaux from District Number 21.

SENATOR BUTCH GAUTREAUX:

I want to thank you for coming out here and making this presentation. Money issues, I can tell that we're facing probably a half a million dollar deficit this year. To think that Louisiana could come up with a \$4,000,000,000 shares is really ludicrous. It's just not going to happen. We're going to have to redefine whose responsibilities the financing of a project of this magnitude would be, but I would say that if you know that -- my personal beliefs, of course, our book defines is that it should a 100 percent federal program, but in the realistic sense I would say ten to fifteen percent would

1 be the maximum if Louisiana could participate.

2 I would hope too that we could move on a little bit
3 quicker than we have in the past. Although of late I've
4 seen great strides being made. But I just learned this
5 evening that Kenard and Davis Pond were approved by
6 Congress in 1965. I was a senior in high school, and you
7 can look at me and tell that wasn't yesterday. But
8 hopefully, you know, we could be able to move a little
9 bit quicker.

10 Looking at Subprovince 3 and the plans to introduce
11 more sedimentation into the Atchafalaya River gives me
12 some concern. We're going to -- as far as those we're
13 going to have, an environmental impact study prepared and
14 completed next month by the Corp of Engineers to deepen
15 the Atchafalaya River at least to maintain the 20-foot
16 depth, a real depth of 20 foot, in taking into account
17 that we have -- what is technical -- what is the word
18 we're using for the stuff that jumped us? Substance --
19 fluff. That we have the fluff at a level below 20 foot.

20 So we have got 20 foot of usable water.

21 Introducing more sedimentation into the river
22 concerns me in that we are going to have a lot of trouble
23 dredging at a rate that allows us to get rid of that
24 sedimentation and look at this plan, it looks like that
25 would exacerbate the problem that we already have. So I
hope that we can -- maybe Sue Hawes can make me feel a

1 little better about this by explaining how we're going to⁵²
2 take care of this problem.

3 Just recently we've been able to move that
4 sedimentation to the west. We've got approved from the
5 EPA, Environmental Protection Agency, to move that stuff
6 off to the west side. I think that's going to prove to
7 shorten the dredge site. I don't think it will be
8 necessary to keep the channel open. But I do still have
9 that concern. So if I -- maybe Sue can address that or
10 Troy.

11 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

12 There's a couple of things that you need to look at.
13 One of them is improving the sediment movement into the
14 Atchafalaya Bay is really a reconfiguration wiping out --
15 water protection leaking out, but also at potential
16 changes in distribution flowing.

17 But at this stage what they're looking at every day,
18 what is the value to the ecosystem. That kind of change
19 has such a far reaching impact, not only to the local
20 community, as you pointed out, but also to the navigation
21 channels that -- in the Atchafalaya and the Mississippi
22 River, that that is more than likely to be one of those
23 kinds of projects that would be moved up into that third
24 grouping that Jon referred to during his presentation.

25 The key in this investigation would be to
investigate what type of environmental benefit could be

1 derived if those things were possible.

2 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

3 Thank you, Senator Gautreaux. Next person up, Jon
4 Faslon with Prita. Jon, are you out there? There he is.
5 And Jon, if you don't mind telling us what Prita stands
6 for.

7 **JON FASLON:**

8 What Prita stands for?

9 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

10 Uh-huh (affirmative response).

11 **JON FASLON:**

12 It's an acronym for ellipses innovation, research,
13 technology and application. So that precludes saying
14 that I think a little bit further ahead than most people
15 do. And I've been looking at this problem for, not
16 yesterday, not last year, but for about the 12, 14, maybe
17 15 years I've been seeing it happen, and I haven't seen
18 anything done about it.

19 Now, I go to the meetings up in Baton Rouge, the
20 Governor's office, on coastal restoration and all I hear
21 about is doing studies and gathering money. Well,
22 somehow the state has gathered
23 \$300,000,000, and from that money I haven't seen one
24 square inch of coast land preserved or restored. We
25 spent I don't know how many millions of dollars doing
this Davis Pond Research Project. That was a total

1 failure

2 because somehow we didn't look far enough ahead and see
3 that we were impacting the oyster fisherman, who shut the
4 project down.

5 So it's not a -- it's not a matter of money. We
6 have the money, but direction. I see a lot of pretty
7 maps up here and pictures and -- but it doesn't prove a
8 thing because we need to stop the erosion before we can
9 do anything about it, and no one's ever been able to do
10 that.

11 I have my own plan for it, but it's counter
12 intuitive to what everyone else thinks and no one seems
13 to think that I know very much about anything because of
14 my ideas. Well, they just aren't looking far enough
15 ahead.

16 There's only two places in Louisiana where the
17 wetlands increase, and that's at the mouth of the
18 Mississippi and here in the Atchafalaya Delta. Every
19 place else is washing away and sinking. And the sinking
20 problem is the biggest problem, and there's no ready
21 solution to that. No matter how much money you put into
22 it, it's going to be a steady drain on us, because the
23 only thing that I can see to do is to levy off the cities
24 and keep them pumped out where -- where everything else
25 is building up.

So what the cities will become are ponds out in the

1 middle of the delta. The big answer to this is to let it⁵⁵
2 flood.

3 I talked to some ecologists, some historians, some
4 other people with big doctoral degrees, and they tell me
5 that 20,000 years ago the coast was 200 miles further out
6 in the Gulf than it is now. So this is not a new
7 problem. This has been going on for a long, long time.
8 I don't think man's going to step in in a year or two and
9 cure the problem. I don't care how much money we put
10 into it. All we can do is talk about like we're doing
11 now, and that's not very productive.

12 So my big thing is to -- the only thing I can say is
13 to let it flood. No one wants to hear that, but let it
14 flood. Flooding made it, flooding maintained it. When
15 man stepped in and put his hands into the equation,
16 that's where the problem started.

17 Not only the Corp of Engineers, but also the oil
18 companies and the logging companies, were started back in
19 the 1800's, so it's a long, drawn out problem with no
20 easy solution, and I don't see any end in sight. Thank
21 you very much for your time.

22 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

23 Thank you, Mr. Faslon.

24 Next person up, can we have State Representative
25 Carla Blanchard Dartez?

REP. CARLA BLANCHARD DARTEZ:

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1 Good evening everyone, and thank you most certainly
2 from the Corp, DNR, the Governor's office for being here
3 today to keep us informed, to let us know that you are
4 working on this major problem.

5 First I'd like to say that I wish we had more just
6 public people here rather than just people representing
7 people, because that's where you really get the input
8 from, the people that actually live there, see it, live
9 it.

10 The Governor just recently has -- as you know, this
11 created the Governor's Advisory Board on Coastal
12 Restoration. On it's -- the minute I found out he was
13 going to create it I asked to be on it. And I said, "I
14 know 15 letters to 15 different people," and how you guys
15 got on it, maybe nobody has ever given me a little
16 insight. And to get on that, just because of its
17 importance to our area, and I thought I could bring
18 something to it.

19 However, I'm just a little dismayed that this
20 commission was just created while he's gone out. So that
21 puts a really, really big burden on the -- on the new
22 person coming in, but hopefully something will be in
23 place and they'll be able to work with it while it's
24 there, but I just wish something would have come before
25 today, but, you know, that's in the past.

My biggest question would be is, how long has LCA

1 been in existence?

2 **JON PORTHOUSE:**

3 This started back in the end of last March.

4 **REP. DARTEZ:**

5 Oh, just recently? Okay.

6 And how many other states, coastal states, how --
7 what are they doing to address this problem? I know it
8 can't be just Louisiana.

9 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

10 No. As a matter of fact, Galveston District has an
11 ongoing program, Mobile has an ongoing program. I'm not
12 so sure about --

13 **REP. DARTEZ:**

14 Is it functionary?

15 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

16 They are -- their problems are obviously nothing
17 like ours. They are minuscule in comparison. However,
18 they do have wetlands lost, considerations have been
19 undertaken.

20 **REP. DARTEZ:**

21 And why is that? I just --

22 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

23 Why is -- I'm sorry, I'm --

24 **REP. DARTEZ:**

25 Why is their loss a lot greater than ours?

TROY CONSTANCE:

1 No, I said it was a lot less.

2 **REP. DARTEZ:**

3 Okay. Why is it a lot less?

4 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

5 Well, they have fewer acres of wetlands, and they're
6 the --

7 **REP. DARTEZ:**

8 Because they're out of the wetlands.

9 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

10 Because they're out of the acreage and the
11 geomorphology , how the land was constructed. And
12 their's is drastically different than ours.

13 **REP. DARTEZ:**

14 Well, I saw the last time -- I sort of agree with
15 the last fellow. I forget his name, but it's natural and
16 it's human nature, and I hate to see spending umpteen
17 millions of dollars of trying to fix something that
18 ultimately won't be fixed, although I'm not advocating
19 not fixing it. Please don't get me wrong, because I know
20 it needs to be done.

21 And looking at the board, the numbers on the board
22 that I did not get appointed to, there were -- like, from
23 out of state, and I'm like, "What do these people know
24 about Louisiana? I mean, what do they have to put in,
25 what do they have?"

 But you made it very, very clear that it's not just

1 the state problem, it's the country's problem, so that⁵⁹
2 made me feel a little better.

3 So, again, thanks for coming out tonight. And
4 please, this is what we need, public support and public
5 input. And anything I can do to help things, and I won't
6 bash anybody too much anymore.

7 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

8 Thank you, Representative Dartez. Our next person
9 up, Mark Davis with CRCL. It's good to see you again.

10 **MARK DAVIS:**

11 It's a pleasure. Mark Davis. I'm the Executive
12 Director of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana.
13 Like Randy Martel, I've been to each of the previous
14 meetings, and I'm not going to repeat all of the
15 statements that I've made there. And we'll be putting
16 some written comments in.

17 Briefly however, we are both very pleased at the
18 progress that is being made and the ambitious plans that
19 are being pursued. We do have concerns about the pace
20 scope. And again, we will put those into comments.

21 What I would like to address tonight really, is the
22 nature of the challenge of that, because at each of the
23 meetings we've had up to this point, the question has
24 always come up, why are we studying this? Haven't we
25 studied it to death, and, you know, shouldn't we just get
about things?

1 I think it's absolutely critical for the
2 public to be, you know, well-informed through this
3 process, and then to become ambassadors for a truly
4 effective competent solution.

5 And it's very clear that, you know, the problems
6 that we're facing are part natural, but largely not. And
7 it's the part that's not natural that we really have a
8 responsibility to address.

9 With respect to the issue about, you know, studies,
10 timing, why we've waited so long, is really not the
11 point. The point is that we now have a chance to make
12 something happen. And this is the process for doing
13 that, and that the studies we're speaking of here are
14 absolutely essential to making the case are not only
15 getting support within the state, but nationally.

16 Randy Martel also made the point that this is going
17 to entail an actual investment of resources by the state.

18 And I think that people need to know that 35 percent is
19 the legal standard needed, but the practical standard for
20 such undertakings is 50 percent.

21 Now again, we have -- they're trying to make the
22 case that we are different in the Everglades, we're
23 different than the Sacramento *** Belt in California.
24 But we have to be very realistic about not, you know,
25 putting together a plan that is intended to get an
authorization, but we are putting together a campaign to

1 save this place.

2 And I think the lessons that we need to learn can be
3 taught by things such as Davis Pond and Caernarvon, in
4 which we were very successful early on in getting 100
5 percent federal authorization. And then it was 15 years
6 before we saw a nickel appropriated, and only then after
7 the State of Louisiana voluntarily stepped forward with
8 the 25 percent of costs share offer. I think we have to
9 be very clear about that.

10 And that final thing is that, while we're talking
11 here about getting things to Congress as soon as
12 possible, and we would certainly hope 2004 offers that,
13 there are decisions that we made before that period of
14 time. One of the election of a new Governor and a new
15 Legislature. And I think every person here, every person
16 in Louisiana actually, has the duty to inform themselves
17 and to make that their elected officials understand the
18 nature of this crisis and the imperative effect we -- on
19 us, which is that, you know, if we do not put ourselves,
20 you know, squarely, you know, forward in the commitment
21 department, I can promise you no one anywhere else in
22 this country will do that.

23 And that begins with the commitments that we make.
24 And when we walk into the voting booth, when we write
25 letters to candidates, when we ask questions of them, and
I think that we had -- need to not really ask for their

1 rhetorical support, but they have to be prepared to make⁶²
2 the hard decisions that will be necessary to save this
3 place, because I think as Lori LeBlanc mentioned, the
4 future is now.

5 The no action alternative is essentially the suicide
6 of south Louisiana, and with it every defective economy
7 and culture of the entire state, and we have to make that
8 start, and we have to commit ourselves to preventing
9 that. Thank you.

10 **JON PORTHOUSE:**

11 Thank you, Mark. That was very well put. And just
12 to add a little to that, that part of the report we
13 always send up is an Assessment of the Commitment of the
14 non-federal sponsors, which includes the public. So the
15 decision-makers that vote towards putting money into this
16 kind of investment, of course are definitely looking for
17 that commitment, so the more they are hearing from you,
18 and we can detail it, and of course the better off we
19 are, in presenting our case through Congress.

20 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

21 Thank you, Mr. Davis. We can open up the floor to
22 anyone now. I still have Lori LeBlanc's question, so
23 I'll get back to you, Lori. Go ahead, and remember
24 names, affiliation, and where you're from.

25 **JUDGE EDWARDS:**

Okay, Judge Edwards, Vermilion Corporation, Chairman

1 of Vermilion Parish Coastal Restoration Advisory
2 Committee, and I'm on the Governor's Advisory Committee,
3 as well. And I don't know how I got there. But I've
4 been doing this for the last 20 years, so that might have
5 something to do with it. I have one quick question, I
6 guess for Sue.

7 Sue, you mentioned Keystone strategies. In 2050 we
8 had more strategies. Does that in the LCA we're going to
9 only focus on the Keystone strategies and ignore the
10 other strategies, or how is that going to work?

11 **SUE HAUS:**

12 Well, the idea was to focus on the Keystones, which
13 are things that are too expensive for the Breaux Act and
14 do things that ecosystems think. What we discovered is,
15 we got into the plan and then Subprovince 3 and 4, there
16 are a lot of small things to put together, would achieve
17 things on ecosystem's scale. So it's slightly different,
18 where you've got the river running through it. And like
19 Mississippi, you know, is the gentleman said, "Let it
20 flood, you know, to let it flood in a controlled way by
21 reintroducing the river and letting it build the land by
22 the what built this whole state.

23 But in Subprovince 3 and 4, we're looking at
24 slightly smaller structures and measures. Thank you.

25 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

Judge, just to add to that, what everyone has to

1 keep in mind, that this reporting process is about
2 putting together a blueprint for success, a plan that we
3 can build upon. So it's not the end of the trail for any
4 of the strategies that you may not see. It's just a
5 simple way in a short time frame of presenting the
6 problems and the needs and showing that we have a
7 solution, and putting some boxes around it; what the
8 solution is and getting that authority, as Jon pointed
9 out.

10 And once you have that in place you can
11 expeditiously can start planning and whatever is
12 necessary to make those plans function to the maximum
13 outlet that you desire.

14 **JUDGE EDWARDS:**

15 For it to be a project within the LCA it would need
16 to be a Keystone strategy, otherwise Breaux bill would
17 have to address it.

18 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

19 Well, not necessarily. It's only toward this
20 reporting process. We need to focus in on those large
21 scale things so that we can make a case, show the
22 problems and needs, and show that there is a solution,
23 and what the order of magnitude that solution is. And
24 that once you get the delegated authority or you set up a
25 structure where you can move quickly, then you can return
to each and every base and work out the details as

1 necessary, which may include adding back in some of those⁶⁵
2 things.

3 **JUDGE EDWARDS:**

4 I don't have any other questions and I'll defer to
5 Miss LeBlanc.

6 **STATE REP. CARLA DARTEZ:**

7 I hate having my back to the audience so I'm going
8 to turn this thing around if you don't mind. I just want
9 to address the last few comments that the gentleman said.

10 First and foremost, an elected official, whether you
11 be a Governor -- and nice to see you tonight. I don't
12 get to see you.

13 First you have to have your courage to run. And you
14 have your groups that are single-issue groups. And I --
15 and I implore you for what you do. But we have to also
16 deal with healthcare, the elderly, education, many, many
17 issues. So we try to -- and me, myself, just being my
18 first year -- well, first I need to comment on --
19 commending Troy, because he's been wonderful to us.

20 Each time you guys have called my office I try to do
21 anything I can. But we can't focus everything on one
22 issue. And this is a very important issue, as is health
23 care for the elderly, as is teacher pay raises.

24 So I just want the public to understand that, you
25 know, we're not sitting on our -- not doing anything.
But to know that we have to spread ourselves -- and that

1 our hearts are in it. You have to have the courage to⁶⁶
2 run.

3 But let me tell you what, when I ran, I mean, I
4 don't know if I'll run again, but I will because my heart
5 is in this thing and I want to help people. So I want
6 you guys to understand, I think the man was going -- I
7 know where he was going with it, and I understand. But I
8 want him to also understand that coastal erosion is not
9 our only problem here in the state of Louisiana, but is a
10 big problem, and that me trying to get on that board was
11 my step of trying to help but it didn't seem to happened,
12 like -- so maybe you all might have a little influence
13 again -- once again.

14 But seriously, I just wanted to let you guys know
15 that we have a lot of major issues, and when you stretch
16 yourself too far, then nothing gets done, so you try to
17 focus major, so thank you.

18 **LORI LEBLANC:**

19 Well, I have to say I've never been cut short
20 speaking before so I guess I'm getting good at this or
21 something. And Carla, I guess I am on that commission
22 also, so don't beat me up, either. Yeah.

23 Well, we all have to work together on this, and
24 maybe it's because I go to every single meeting because
25 it is my job to do that, exactly, keep up on issues.

So anyway, I will doing a public meeting on injustice

1 if I didn't at least just put on the record what Restore⁶⁷
2 and Retreat is all about. What we actually support in
3 this LCA study, and that is using the most invaluable
4 resource that we have, the Mississippi River. And as the
5 man said earlier, let it flood. But unfortunately --
6 well, fortunately for all of us sitting in this room, we
7 live, we work and we play in south Louisiana.

8 I live in Houma. My family, we have a family
9 business. We are there because we have a very strong
10 economy and it's worth saving, and the culture is worth
11 saving. So we're not -- can't necessarily let it loose,
12 but we can use it to our advantage, use it the way the
13 river was meant to be used.

14 Like Bayou Lafourche used to do, it used to be the
15 lifeline to our community. It carried 15 percent of the
16 Mississippi River. Let's get some of that water instead,
17 and then back into the basins; 160,000,000 tons of
18 sediment is going off into the outer continental shelf.
19 We need that sediment.

20 When you look at that map, we've been talking about
21 moving Atchafalaya River water east and south. Let's
22 move some of that sediment east and south, if it is at
23 all possible.

24 So we, of course, support the Major Third Delta
25 Conveyance Channel Project. There's a parallel effort
with the LCA study, and any possible way of getting some

1 of the water and sediment over from the Atchafalaya
2 River.

3 And the only other concern issue, if I'm not going
4 on too long is, there are other infrastructure projects
5 going on right now. As a matter of fact, there was a
6 conflicting meeting tonight; the Donaldsonville ***
7 Gulf Levee Construction Project. That's one in
8 particular major infrastructure project, there's the I-49
9 Corridor, all these different highways.

10 We have to make sure that all of these
11 infrastructure projects are working together with the LCA
12 projects. They cannot withstand alone, because if you
13 build one thing and it impacts future restoration
14 projects, we're only defeating the purpose of having a
15 comprehensive restoration program. And that was it.
16 Thank you.

17 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

18 I would like to address one issue that's you brought
19 up, consistency within the federal, state and private
20 entities in there endeavors within the coast. And that's
21 another reason why it's extremely important that we move
22 very quickly into getting some sort of approval of this
23 plan, because as it stands right now, there is nothing
24 really for all the other federal findings to be
25 consistent to.

I just want to make sure that I was clear about

1 Caernarvon and Davis Pond Projects. My point was, 35⁶⁹
2 years from Congressional authorization to -- to the
3 actual moving of the Davis Pond was an -- you know, an
4 incredible amount of time for a project to take. But I
5 know that Kenard, it has been immensely successful, and I
6 suspect that Davis Pond will be just as successful.

7 One of things that we may consider, or may have
8 considered already, as a resource for being able to get
9 the word out how important it is to get this project
10 funded and what effects it will have on our state in the
11 future, would be maybe to take in science teachers at
12 grade school level and high school level, and put
13 together a program or presentation, maybe not just a --
14 maybe not just a presentation, but a curriculum that
15 would teach students about coastal restoration and the
16 erosion that would have subsistence of all those things
17 that have caused the problems that we're having right
18 now.

19 Approaching to the Department of Education, I think
20 they would be very receptive to such a curriculum and who
21 better to get that word out than the teachers.

22 **JON PORTHOUSE:**

23 We absolutely agree with that.

24 Is Gabrielle Boudreaux still here?

25 **GABRIELLE BOUDREAUX:**

Yes, I am.

1 **JON PORTHOUSE:**

2 Stand up and wave your hand. Gabrielle
3 has large experience with the Quipper Program trying to
4 do teacher workshops and get the word out into the
5 schools, and we completely agree with your comment that
6 we need to start there.

7 **GABRIELLE BOUDREAUX:**

8 We have been conducting teacher workshops. I'm
9 Gabrielle Boudreaux Baudin, Management Coordinator for
10 Quipper. We've been doing teacher workshops throughout
11 the state for the last three and a half years now, and we
12 have presented information to over 2,000 teachers in that
13 time period.

14 We do have educational CD ROMS with teacher's guides
15 that we distribute to them, and a number of educational
16 materials. And we teach them the basics. A lot of
17 teachers don't know the basics of coastal wetlands and
18 what's going on out there. And we teach that to them and
19 how to present it to their students. So we are working
20 to that end.

21 We also do work with the Environmental Ed
22 Coordinator with the state, Wayne Emmick.
23 We're also working with the Louisiana Science Teachers
24 Association and some of the other professional
25 organizations to get the word out.

SUE HAUS:

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1 And Leslie McVay from the Barataria-Terrebonne.

2 Leslie, do you want to tell them what you guys are doing?

3 **LESLIE MCVAY:**

4 My name is Leslie McVay. I'm with the Barataria-
5 Terrebonne National Estuary Program. My title is
6 Community Relations Coordinator.

7 We do, as a program, have a formal education
8 coordinator, Debra Scholls. Our program area covers 15
9 parishes in the Barataria-Terrebonne Basins, beginning at
10 the old water control structure in Morganza, down to the
11 Gulf. The Mississippi River is our border to the east,
12 and the Atchafalaya is our border to the west.

13 Debra, over the years, has developed with a lot of
14 our management conference partners, many of whom are
15 Breaux Act partners also. The explore in south Louisiana
16 -- "Exploring Coastal Louisiana with Boudreaux" and "Knee
17 Deep in Louisiana Wetlands." Those are available at no
18 cost to teachers and students and the public through our
19 office. I'll leave my cards, or if anybody wants to give
20 their name and address.

21 We have field trip guides, wonderful for teachers,
22 that explore different sites throughout the area. We
23 have educational videos that come with accompanying
24 curriculum guides. And we are constructing currently a
25 mini web page that actually has downloads of all of our
educational projects that -- and products that are

1 available to the general public.

2 Portions of that, not all the products are up there
3 yet, but about half of them are. Our website is
4 www.btwep.org. And Debra has a lot of presentations in
5 the area and would be glad to do that. She's currently
6 working with an action plan team of teachers to bring all
7 of our products up to the new state accountability
8 standards so that they can be incorporated more readily
9 into our programs, and she's working with the different
10 School Boards and our office on that. And we certainly
11 are happy to cooperate. We share information and
12 products and projects with Gabrielle and others on the
13 Quipper task force all the time, and are always looking
14 for opportunities to expand our base.

15 So even though you may not be in our program area,
16 if you're coming from -- on the other side of the
17 Atchafalaya, we're still happy to come whenever we can.
18 So we welcome any inquiries and would -- I'll be glad to
19 support you with any material we can in any way. Thank
20 you.

21 **SUE HAUS:**

22 And by the way, to just prove that this works, my
23 grandson in third grade in New Orleans came home all
24 excited. They've had a week's study plan about land loss
25 and coastal erosion and what was happening, so it's
getting out into the schools, I can assure you.

1 **GABRIELLE BOUDREAUX:**

2 If I can just add to that, one thing that map is
3 considered doing, and we're going to look again at the
4 Resolution Time Management Conference, right now the
5 BESSIE -- the board naturally focuses a lot of its
6 efforts on the leap scores and improving because of the
7 strict accountability standards.

8 If there is a way to legislatively -- I hate to use
9 the term "mandate," but encourage, that we need to
10 incorporate the coastal land loss issues into their
11 science accountability and their science standard state's
12 program. That would go a long way, to not only educate
13 our own children in the area about being good stewards as
14 they grow and live here in south Louisiana, but it would
15 help with the children in the other parts of the state
16 and help carry that message.

17 But currently there is no specific mandate for them
18 to teach that. It's optional. And the schools in our
19 program area and New Orleans, you know, where we live and
20 breathe it, certainly are, well going to try to do it,
21 but there's nothing in there that made them teach that to
22 the standard at this time on a statewide basis.

23 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

24 Thank you. Thank you, I think there is a gentleman
25 in green here that would like to say something.

ADDISON ELLIS:

ASSOCIATED REPORTERS, INC.
 201 St. Charles Ave., Suite 3811
 New Orleans, Louisiana 70170
 (504) 529-3355

1 Yes. Thank you. My name is Addison Ellis. I'm --
2 I don't represent anybody and I'm not affiliated with
3 anybody.

4 One of my questions, you brought up the idea that
5 there are current state holders involved in these
6 meetings and they work with you guys. How can I get a
7 list of who those current state holders are and what
8 their goals and objectives are so that I might better
9 know who I would want to work with, if any at all?

10 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

11 If you get your name and what way of contacting you
12 to Gary Robert. Gary?

13 **GARY ROBERT:**

14 We will be able to get you a list of the people that
15 we associate with, then you can
16 pick from that, but I can tell that it's not the only
17 groups out there. There is some that we
18 deal with very advanced. You have to decided which is
19 your best.

20 **ADDISON ELLIS:**

21 Right. And I also picked up that you guys were
22 available.

23 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

24 Yes.

25 **ADDISON ELLIS:**

 And I'm glad this slide's still up, because I had

1 one question for Ms. Haus. If you will, I think I've⁷⁵
2 seen an earlier map on the web page, and it included
3 coastal restoration throughout ***Blanche and Vermilion
4 Bay area. They are all the way around Leeks Island. And
5 I see now that, you know, the only focus is going to be
6 on one, two, three small areas. Am I reading that right?

7 **SUE HAUS:**

8 See, that one has some -- it protects Southwest
9 Pass, and over there near Point
10 Marrone and then also has Troy had said, Southwest Pass
11 here. And as Troy had said, when we get this hopefully,
12 the delegated authority, then we come look at this, we
13 can look at -- we are not just limited to just these
14 areas we can
15 see if more areas would be cost effective. But this
16 keeps a place holder for that kind of stuff.

17 **ADDISON ELLIS:**

18 We've been fighting erosion in east and west *** Bay
19 now for many, many years. And I would think that
20 rebuilding historic reefs is going to help with that
21 problem, especially with Mr. Ensminger's comments, I
22 think that's who said that the tidal action was reduced
23 from 10 feet to 5 feet. And so that's a good thing. But
24 I was disappointed with not seeing more emphasis in other
25 areas.

TROY CONSTANCE:

1 There are many miracles that need to be done in
2 coastal restoration, but to address all of those issues
3 is outside of the time frame in which we're operating.

4 So I guess -- we're turning back to the fact that we
5 are trying to paint a picture and educate what the
6 problem is and the magnitude of the problem and severity.

7 And demonstrate that there is a solution, and put some
8 boxes around that cost, and some determination.

9 There's a thing called incremental analysis in which
10 we will get into when we move into the final phases of
11 redesigning, that is, if I add a little bit more, another
12 increment in project and cost, would it be added
13 increment and benefits? And we do that and try to
14 maximize the output for dollars.

15 And that's where you come -- in terms of the
16 project, you start doing that sort of incremental
17 analysis, you should see things like that start popping
18 up. By doing a diversion in a particular area I get X
19 number of benefits.

20 Now, what if I did that diversion added a little
21 what do I get, and you do that, and finally you come up
22 with the maximum *** And that's what happens after you
23 get yourself in position.

24 So a lot of you are looking down at coastal
25 restoration, see the kind of strategies that you need to
do that may not be replacing this overall

1 plan. What we ask at that time is that you remind us
2 what your comments are. I worked for a long time on
3 this, and I don't see it in the plan, and I know what
4 your game plan is, to get this message out and get some
5 authority. And don't forget about it as you move
6 forward into the detailed analysis. And that's what the
7 name of the game is, at this point, anyway.

8 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

9 Okay. We have about five more minutes for
10 questions.

11 **ED LANDGRAF:**

12 Ed Landgraf, L-a-n-d-g-r-a-f. I'm with
13 Shell and I also represent Terrebonne Parish Coastal
14 Restoration Committee, and also on the Terrebonne Parish
15 Chamber of Commerce of Coastal Restoration.

16 And just to address a few things on the public
17 awareness front, I'm very proud once to say that
18 Terrebonne Parish has been adopted as America's Wetlands
19 Community Partner. And the America's Wetlands trail will
20 be coming down through different parishes and cities in
21 Louisiana. And the America's Wetland Campaign is looking
22 for champions in the state who can actually take this
23 program into their communities.

24 So I would encourage people in the audience who
25 haven't heard the America's Wetlands Campaign to go to --
you can either talk to myself or, you know, Lori LeBlanc

1 knows about it, as well. And they also have America's
2 Wetland.com. And you can become a community partner in
3 the Wetlands effort.

4 So there is some things that -- you know, just being
5 a concerned citizen, you can do in your communities and
6 get a community group started.

7 In the Terrebonne Parish -- the Terrebonne Parish
8 Coastal Restoration Committee would like to network with
9 other committees throughout south Louisiana and increase
10 public awareness on these issues. So I would encourage
11 you to try to do a little research, those who would want
12 to get involved with that.

13 And I do have one other question.

14 How is the economic setting coming on the effects of
15 coastal erosion and when will those numbers come out?

16 **JON PORTHOUSE:**

17 They had a contract underway, and they're
18 continuously modifying it, as you well know. It's come
19 to the Board.

20 Unfortunately, that information probably won't be
21 completed until the end of May or June -- beginning of
22 June. So a complete picture of what we're up to -- won't
23 be available to us
24 prior to going further than the state of Louisiana.

25 There are -- you can contact me if you have any
specific questions, anyone in the audience, and we'll put

1 you in contact with economist in charge. And we'll give
2 you details as they come out.

3 **ED LANDGRAF:**

4 Well, are you still looking for data from other
5 industries and other places or not really?

6 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

7 Yeah, absolutely. Businesses know more about what
8 is happening on the ground than we do. So what every
9 little insight we can get into your business is extremely
10 important to help paint that picture.

11 While we may not be able to get there,
12 we'll be thinking on the impact that we would normally
13 do. We need to express all those concerns before we --
14 to the best of our ability, and some of the examples when
15 you get invited are interaction to pipeline industry.

16 So if you have an industry and you have some
17 considerations or at some point that you just need to
18 make a report, again contact me or Jon, and we'll put you
19 in a place about what the specialists have to say. Thank
20 you for bringing that up.

21 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

22 Would you like to make the final question?

23 **ED LANDGRAF:**

24 Sure. I've got a lot of it I can --

25 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

You've got a lot of it.

1 **ED LANDGRAF:**

2 I won't touch on all of them. But I'll lean into it
3 by saying, in part, from where I see it, I see two
4 reasons why there might be some lack of public
5 participation, and I know probably -- could we ask to see
6 how many people in the room have -- maybe the way to do
7 it would be, I guess, have been to other Quipper or
8 Coastal Restoration meetings before? Or maybe how many
9 haven't?

10 Okay. More has than has not. And, again, -- and I
11 take it that these are probably some pretty good diehards
12 back there. People like the ones -- the newcomers
13 oftentimes, as I see it, don't come back because one, the
14 process takes so long. And so LCA will hasten that
15 process, and if the Public Awareness Committee can make
16 us aware of what's happening in that arena so that the
17 general public can see that things are moving forward,
18 they'll be more encouraged to come back.

19 The second is, oftentimes at meetings like this, and
20 my -- I'm going to give a specific example. In 2050, I
21 can't tell you how many meetings I went to, but dozens.

22 **SUE HAUS:**

23 We had 65 toatl.

24 **ED LANDGRAF:**

25 Sixty-five total meetings. I went to all those, not
every one but in Region 3 and Region 4, I went to almost

1 every one. So that's about 30 meetings.

2 Coastal strategy, and when it left the final meeting
3 it was on the books, but the strategy failed to emerge
4 from Baton Rouge, or if it did emerge, it was very
5 diluted and you really had to look for it. And the
6 strategy has reappeared in what was -- Subprovince 4 as
7 the protection perimeter. But I think that means that
8 we're going to maintain the levees around Sabine Natural
9 Wildlife refuge and other places as such.

10 The strategy was, to have beneficial use of dredge
11 material, include placing it on the banks of navigation
12 channels and close new canals and connect it to
13 navigation channels.

14 And today, federal and state agencies are opposing
15 that when the Fire Inspector goes for a permit. So
16 there's some -- now, it may not be a good strategy, it
17 may not be a good strategy through all of Louisiana, but
18 there are places where it works.

19 And when the public goes through 30 meetings and the
20 strategy has made it through 30 meetings, and it doesn't
21 come all the way around, and then the agencies begin
22 opposing that very strategy, it's disheartening to the
23 public.

24 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

25 We recognize there are some inconsistencies between
the two processes that come into play

1 within Corp of Engineers are making an effort in the
2 study, to look at that fact. We're putting together some
3 hypothetical permits, and following the Rules of
4 Regulatory with the office.

5 Say, "If a permit like this came through like this,
6 how would you react?," so that we can correct into the
7 study appropriate steps
8 to see that that happens.

9 **ED LANDGRAF:**

10 I'll give you some real life.

11 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

12 And I can't -- But what I can ask is that I don't
13 know what the total key thing is right now, but I don't
14 know what all the hypothetical things are, but I can ask
15 to see if that type of questioning is -- you know, what -
16 - if a landowner wanted to do something that was
17 consistent with the plan, how would the permitting action
18 officers react to, and as you pointed out, that's truly
19 important.

20 I suspect it's in the grouping of the
21 type of *** I can't guarantee it, but we'll bring it. I
22 want to make sure it is.

23 **ED LANDGRAF:**

24 Again, this is the Terracing Permit.
25 April will be two years, two years.

TROY CONSTANCE:

1 My mother lives in the wetlands. I know full well
2 the problem.

3 **ED LANDGRAF:**

4 Motherhood and apple pie.

5 **TROY CONSTANCE:**

6 But the only thing I can say is that, in this plan
7 we have to turn a blind eye to that issue and we're
8 working in that direction to try and clear up some of
9 those inconsistencies, in both issuing permits and in, as
10 you pointed out, that sort of project.

11 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

12 Okay, great. Okay, one more.

13 **RUBY SPARKS:**

14 Yes. I'm Ruby Sparks with Williams, Incorporated.
15 And I want to thank you all for coming here tonight and
16 giving us an update on where you stand. I was pleasantly
17 surprised, and I want to hear again, Sue, that you all
18 are actually looking at the older control structure and
19 realignment of sediment and water through that structure
20 in conjunction with the conveyance channel for third
21 branch; is that correct?

22 **SUE HAUS:**

23 Not in conjunction with the conveyance, the Third
24 Delta, but this just for itself, we're looking at
25 changing the percentage of flow up the river, one
possible of that, as you know, will take a long time.

1 And that will probably be in the third group that Jon
2 talked about.

3 **RUBY SPARKS:**

4 Okay. And as you're looking at this, you're telling
5 me that you're looking at it towards reducing the amount
6 of flow down into the Atchafalaya or increasing?

7 **SUE HAUS:**

8 No. I'm afraid I can't tell you that,
9 because you're looking at increasing.

10 **RUBY SPARKS:**

11 You're looking at both directions.

12 **SUE HAUS:**

13 Yes.

14 **RUBY SPARKS:**

15 Well, I would just ask you all to keep in mind as
16 you go through this process of Coast 2050, that in
17 addition to the deterioration that occurred along the
18 coast line that is very evident and visible as we make
19 our recognizance surveys alike, and it's well documented,
20 I think you need to keep in mind that there's also been a
21 tremendous amount of devastation to the Cypress Tupelo***
22 Forest immediately north of these coastal areas, these
23 coastal marshes, and that I would really ask that you try
24 to include that within the scope of 2050.

25 It's been a real concern of mine, that 2050 has
really been limited to just along the coastal areas and

1 not considering the Atchafalaya Basin and the *** Basin⁸⁵
2 in the northern parts of Barataria, and Maurepas Basin
3 and those areas.

4 **JON PORTHOUSE:**

5 We are covering the other portions of the basins
6 that you talked about. The only
7 thing that Sue is pointing out is that, when you're
8 looking at the Atchafalaya Basin
9 between the levees. To change the distribution flow,
10 that's a long, drawn out process, as you are aware.

11 But with us, in the last effort and so in so many
12 actions that you see on your plans, consider some of the
13 outcome of the Atchafalaya studies in place, meaning, for
14 example, the barrier systems along the *** . If those
15 are not place you can step back. If they don't turn out
16 to be part of the Atchafalaya Basin Projects, then we can
17 go back and re-evaluate those to be in place, address
18 those issues.

19 **RUBY SPARKS:**

20 My point being that, any consideration of
21 redistributing flow among the -- or between the basins is
22 not going to just impact the coastal area, but it's also
23 going to have a material impact on the Cypress Tupelo
24 Swamps to the north. I hope that you keep that in mind
25 as you go forward in the planning process.

SUE HAUS:

1 Especially over in Barataria and Pontchartrain
2 Basins in upper Terrebone, we're looking at getting some
3 water and sediment into the Cypress Swamps to try to move
4 the water through so that it doesn't drown and get moved
5 by the sediment nutrients in there. So that is part of
6 the plan.

7 **RUBY SPARKS:**

8 And push along that salt water back out into the
9 Gulf where it's supposed to be.

10 **SUE HAUS:**

11 Kind of, sort of, yes.

12 **RUBY SPARKS:**

13 Okay. Thank you.

14 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

15 Okay. Thank you. Before we conclude this evening I
16 just want to recap a few things that Jon mentioned in his
17 presentation.

18 One was about public support and how you can become
19 aware of the updates and what's going on.

20 First he mentioned about being on the mailing list
21 so you can know about future meetings. There are two
22 cards in the back that allow you to get on this mailing
23 list. Someone in the back can help you get on the
24 mailing list.

25 There's also a business reply card in the back. If
you were not able to make comments tonight, there is a

1 place for comments, and you don't even have to put a
2 stamp on it. You can get it in the mail.

3 Another thing I want to push is the website,
4 www.Coast2050.gov. If you haven't visited the website
5 yet, there is some frequently asked questions on there.
6 There's also copies of tonight's presentations, along
7 with their notes and, from what I understand, there's
8 going to be future presentations on there, as well, so
9 you can prepare for these meetings.

10 And there's also a way to submit online comments and
11 questions right there on the website.

12 **SUE HAUS:**

13 All of the presentations of mine will be on the
14 website by Thursday or Friday.

15 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

16 Okay. Sue says that tonight's presentations
17 combined, will be on the website by Tuesday or Thursday?

18 **SUE HAUS:**

19 All -- and you see, the one I did was different. It
20 has the Subprovince.

21 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

22 Okay.

23 **SUE HAUS:**

24 They all have a -- they're all the Subprovince.

25 **ROBIN DUNKIN:**

Okay. The presentations will be for all the

1 Subprovince, so some of the stuff that you didn't see
2 tonight that they had presented in other presentations
3 will be on there, as well.

4 And also, attend more of these meetings.
5 There's going to be another series of them in April and
6 May. So we hope to see you there again here soon.

7 Again, on behalf of the Governor's Office and the
8 Department of Natural Resources and the Army Corp of
9 Engineers, we thank you for coming here tonight.

10 Jon and Sue and Troy are going to stay here. If you
11 would like to have a personal conversation with them,
12 they're here to answer your questions. So thank you
13 for coming out tonight.
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R E P O R T E R ' S P A G E

I, Wanda Capdeville, Certified Court Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana, the officer, as defined in Rule 28 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and/or Article 1434(b) of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, before whom this sworn testimony was taken, do hereby state on the Record:

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Certified Court Reporter

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I, Wanda Capdeville, Certified Court Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this **Public Meeting** was taken, do hereby certify that after having been first duly sworn by me upon authority of R.S. 37:2554, did testify as hereinbefore set forth in the foregoing 103 pages;

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